

7/9/03

My family, my neighbors and I are totally opposed to the Dept. Of Homeland Security mandate that dictates we be searched when boarding Washington State Ferries!!!! 1.) You are selecting a specific group of commuters that travel to/from Whidbey Island and the other islands who happen to live/work here...WE ARE NOT CRIMINALS!!!!

2.) The threat level has gone to Orange three times this year!!!.

3.) Goods/services coming to Whidbey Island would impose huge surcharges during these elevated threat levels!!!

4.) This is yet another unfunded Federal mandate that would shift a huge burden on Washington State Ferries...We just had a 5% fare increase in addition to the 5-cent gas hike...We, the residents of Washington State, cannot continue to bare this burden!!!

5.) I have contacted everyone from my Federal Congresspersons to the Governor, all have replied that they are totally opposed to this ridiculous mandate!!!! I just received an e-mail from my State Senator, Mary Margaret Haugen, who chairs our State Transportation Committee in the Senate. She tells me that your mandate will cost our state ferry system \$20 million dollars to implement and it is not necessary. In closing, you should focus on the real targets, like the Port of Seattle, where goods come from around the world. Our ferries DO NOT represent a target, contrary to what your being told...